



January - March 2007



ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY INTERN (ELI) PROGRAM

Laboratory Services Division initiated the ELI Program on January 11, 2007 with the employment of three post-graduate interns—Blessing Amadi, Clayton Driggs, and Scott Wicker, all from Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. This program affords full-time graduate students the opportunity to gain hands-on instruction and educational training, practical experience, and analytical testing in LDEQ LSD's state of the art environmental laboratory, while receiving college credit towards their respective degrees.

CLEAN METALS ANALYSIS

The LDEQ laboratory recently completed the installation of two new instruments (an Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass Spectrometer (ICP-MS) and a Mercury analyzer) in the soon-to-be Clean Metals Laboratory. The clean metals laboratory is scheduled to be fully functioning by the end of 2007.

QUARTERLY ANALYTICAL UPDATE

The LDEQ laboratory conducted 68,691 analytical tests during CY2005, 52,629 during CY2006 and 10,797 so far during the first calendar quarter of 2007 (Jan-Mar 2007). These analyses were conducted in the areas of General Chemistry, General Organics, Air Organics, Metals, and Radiation. Beginning in May 2007, we anticipate a significant increase in air analyses in response to the intensive sampling for Ozone season. This sampling period is projected to go on until the end of October 2007.

LELAP NEWS—NELAC IS NOW THE NELAC INSTITUTE (TNI)

Effective November 6, 2006, the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC) and the Institute for National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation (INELA) were combined into a single organization, the NELAC Institute (TNI). A description of the bylaws, committees, and programs of TNI can be found on the new TNI website, www.nelac-institute.org. The TNI standards are those to which laboratories will eventually be held. In regards to laboratories currently accredited by LELAP, the transition to TNI will be invisible. All accreditation requirements remain the same, and laboratories currently holding LELAP accreditation will continue to do so. The applicable state rule-making process will govern changes in the LDEQ LELAP laboratory accreditation requirements. A letter was sent to all LELAP accredited laboratories concerning this change.

LABORATORY SERVICES DIVISION STAFF UPDATE

Three new full-time employees—Stormy Hall in the General Organics Administrative section, Jennifer Boudreaux in the LELAP section, and Crisalda Adams in the General Chemistry section, a student worker—Titus Pierre, and three Environmental Interns identified above, joined the Laboratory Services Division staff. Nicole Anthony has been named as the Radiation Laboratory Team Leader. She has been the radiation team leader since Matt Schlenker's retirement in October 2006. Nancy Scott was promoted to Administrative Assistant 4 in December 2006. Sandy Wackett is the new LIMS Administrator effective January 2007. She replaced Tara Nixon, who transferred to data management in the Water Quality Assessment Division.

NELAC CERTIFICATION

In July 2006, the LDEQ Laboratory was awarded NELAC certification for methods in General Chemistry and Organic Chemistry. In March 2007, the LDEQ laboratory is scheduled to undergo a NELAC audit for additional certification in Air Organics, Semivolatiles, and General Chemistry (Metals). The LDEQ Environmental Laboratory is the first state-owned environmental laboratory to attain NELAC certification.

SDMS PAPERLESS DATA VALIDATION

Laboratory Services Division is currently negotiating for a new data information system, the Scientific Data Management System (SDMS). This system will significantly aid in the creation of data validation packages, eliminating the need for manual document retrieval, pagination, and preparation. It is an electronic data warehouse, eliminating the need for paper documents. SDMS is a database that houses documents that are text-searchable and vector scalable. The SDMS will transform LDEQ Lab data into highly accessible and re-usable information, improving workflow, collaboration, and compliance. Laboratory Services expects installation in Fall 2007.

[Click here](#) for more information.



National Environmental Laboratory
Accreditation Program Certificate #E37974



National Environmental Laboratory
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